

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16. (canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A modular electrical connector-~~assembly system~~, comprising:

a first connector with plurality of signal terminals and a plurality of ground terminals arranged in columns and rows; and

a second connector configured to engage the first connector, the second connector configured to translated from an unmated position to a mated position, the mated position having the first and second connector coupled together, the second connector comprising:

a main housing;

~~a front face with a plurality of openings for receiving mating terminals of a complementary mating connector;~~

a plurality of connector modules supported by the main housing, each connector module having a dielectric module housing and a plurality of terminals for establishing electrical connections to the mating terminals, wherein the module housings each having a front face, and the front faces of the module housings together forming a the front face of the second connector-assembly, the front face with a plurality of openings configured to receive the plurality of signal and ground terminals of the first connector;

~~a dielectric main housing to which the connector modules are attached;~~

a plurality of signal terminals that are arranged in the each module housing; and

at least one ground terminal supported in each module housing with at least a first first contact section and a first spring arm section, with the first contact section having at least one first and second contact, wherein the first and second contacts are mechanically coupled and wherein one of the first and second contacts is not in contact with the corresponding ground terminal in the first connector-~~open~~ when the second connector assembly is in the a finally mated position.

18. (Currently Amended) The connector ~~system assembly~~ as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

a first guide ~~element means~~ provided on the second connector for mating interaction with a complementary mating ~~aperture guide means~~ on the ~~first complementary mating~~ connector, wherein the ~~first~~ guide ~~element means~~ ~~is are~~ arranged on an upper face of the connector assembly.

19. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first guide ~~element means~~ is attached to the main housing.

20. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly as claimed ~~in~~ Claim ~~18-17~~, further comprising:

a second guide ~~element means~~ provided on the second connector for mating interaction with a complementary mating ~~aperture guide means~~ of the ~~first mating~~ connector, wherein the second guide ~~element means~~ is arranged on a lower face of the ~~second~~ connector ~~assembly~~, opposite the upper face.

21. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the module housings each have a receptacle for detachable attachment of the second guide ~~element means~~, and wherein the second guide ~~element means~~ ~~is are~~ attachable to the ~~second~~ connector ~~assembly~~ at various positions.

22. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the second guide ~~element means~~ comprises ~~at least two or more~~ separate guide elements.

Claims 23-25 (Cancelled).

26. (Original) The connector assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the connector modules form a stack, and wherein the main housing is essentially L-shaped, and covers an upper face and a rear face of the stack.

Claims 27- 34 (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly as claimed in claim ~~17-1~~, wherein the first and second contacts are arranged on the first spring arm section.

36. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the first and second contact are arranged colinearly or transversely offset.

37. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the at least one ground terminal is stamped and formed, and the first and second contact each comprise a stamped projection.

38. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the first contact section comprises a third contact.

39. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 38-4, wherein the first spring arm section has a first and second leg and has a recess between the first and the second leg.

40. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 39-6, further comprising: a front head section on which the first and second legs are connected to one another, and the first contact is arranged on the head section, the second contact is arranged on the first leg, and the third contact is arranged on the second leg.

41. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 40-4, wherein at least two of the first, second and third contacts are longitudinally offset.

42. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the first spring arm section has a connecting section and a spring section with the spring section being inclined with respect to the connecting section.

43. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in a first plane, with one surface of the ground terminal faces the first plane, the ground terminal being resilient in a traverse direction with respect to the first plane, and the head section is curved in the direction of resiliency.

44. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the ground terminal has a second spring arm section, a second contact section and a shield, with the shield being arranged between the first and second spring arm section.

45. (Currently Amended) The connector as claimed in claim 17-4, wherein the signal terminals are arranged in pairs, and the distance of the signal terminals within each pair is less than or equal to the distance between signal terminals of adjacent pairs.

46. (New) A connector assembly, comprising:

a first connector with a first set of terminals arranged in columns and rows, the first set of terminals having a planar surface and configured to be mounted on a circuit board; and

a second connector supporting a second set of terminals and mated to the first connector, the second set of terminals each having a first and second contact point, wherein the first contact point is mechanically coupled to the second contact point such that the first contact engages the planar surface and the second contact is suspended in space above the planar surface.

47. (New) The connector assembly of claim 46, wherein the second set of terminals each have a distal end and wherein the first contact is a first distance to the distal end and the second contact is a second distance to the distal end, the second distance being less than the first distance.